

What is claimed is:

1. A method of fabricating window coverings, comprising the sequential steps of:

- 5 a) receiving orders for custom-colored window coverings;
- b) formulating a layout for cutting blank bulk window covering material to accommodate the orders;
- c) cutting the bulk window covering material according to the layout; and
- d) applying color to the cut material;

10 wherein the window covering material has a front surface and a back surface.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein two colors are applied to the cut material.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the window coverings are cellular fabric, a
15 woven fabric or a non-woven fabric.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the orders include size, style and color
information.

20 5. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of installing hardware.

6. A method according to claim 1 wherein receiving orders comprises receiving
orders over an internet connection, by facsimile, by mail or by telephone.

25 7. A method according to claim 1 wherein the bulk window covering material
comprises a neutral-colored material.

8. A method according to claim 1 wherein formulating a layout comprises
optimizing the layout.

9. A method according to claim 8 wherein optimizing the layout comprises using software constructed to create an optimum layout.

10. A method according to claim 8 wherein optimizing the layout comprises making a visual determination to create an optimum layout.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein applying color to the cut material comprises an application method selected from the group consisting of spraying, brushing, rolling, pad coating, curtain coating, inkjet printing, silkscreen printing and dying.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein applying color to the cut material is accomplished manually.

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein applying color to the cut material is accomplished by an automated X-Y table.

14. A method according to claim 1, wherein applying color to the cut material comprises applying color to only one surface of the material.

15. A method according to claim 1, wherein applying color to the cut material comprises applying color to the front and back surface of the material.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein there is a first color applied to the front surface of the material and a second color applied to the back surface of the material, and wherein the first and second colors are different.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein the first color and the second color are constructed of materials having differing optical properties. .

18. A method according to claim 1, wherein the window covering material comprises a woven, knit or non-woven material.

19. A method according to claim 8, wherein the non-woven materials include a non-
5 woven polyester materials or a synthetic material.

20. A method of providing custom-colored window coverings, comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving an order for a window covering, wherein the order includes a physical sample for color-matching;
- b) mixing different colored inks to provide ink to match the physical sample provided in the order;
- c) applying the ink to a window covering to provide a custom-colored window covering.

15 21. A method of providing custom-colored window coverings, comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving an order for a window covering, wherein the order includes color information;
- b) converting the color information to a mathematical address;
- c) mixing different colored inks to provide ink comprising a custom color according to the mathematical address;
- d) applying the ink to a neutral-colored, window covering to provide a custom-colored window covering.

20 25 22. The method according to claim 21, wherein converting the color information comprises using an L*A*B* color match system to convert a color to a mathematical address.

23. The method according to claim 21, wherein converting the color information comprises retrieving a mathematical address for the color from an electronic database.

5 24. A method of extending a product line comprising:

a) providing custom-colored window coverings according to the method of
10 claim 19;

b) cross-marketing the custom-colored window coverings with home improvement products selected from the group consisting of: paints, floor coverings, fabrics, furnishings, home accessories, wall-coverings and soft window treatments.